

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

CG Questions 10/22/2023

Hebrews 10:1-18 (plus Matthew 9:13, Micah 6:8, and John 19:30)

Ted Rastatter: God has done what God Himself has required

In this week's sermon, Ted first started with a fundamental question that every religion must answer: how is God pleased? He argues that only the Bible gives an honest answer - that we cannot do anything to please God, but that God Himself did what God required. We often mischaracterize this system as a new covenant only system, but there are many patterns in the old testament that display God's eternal intention to accomplish what He requires, Himself. See Genesis 15 (Abraham covenant ceremony), Genesis 22 (Abraham sacrificing Isaac), Exodus (Two tablets of the 10 commandments), and Jeremiah 31 (What God will do).

Why does this matter? Because from time to time, we who follow Jesus doubt whether or not we're doing enough. We even doubt to the point of questioning whether we're "in Christ!" We ask ourselves: is the good I'm doing outweighing the bad? That thinking is actually a law that we create in our own minds, and we become in bondage to it! Bible reading, prayer, church attendance all become "sacrifices" to try and earn God's pleasure as opposed to gifts to enjoy because of His graciousness. This brings us to the two main points in this passage displaying the author's opinion of why it would be crazy to go back to the old system of trying to "earn" the favor of God...because of the:

- a) Insufficiency of our sacrifices; and the
- b) Sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice.

### Insufficiency of our sacrifices (Verses 1-4):

**Question 1)** What are some reasons the author gives for the insufficiency of the old covenant sacrificial system?

**Question 2)** Think back to a time when you were being dutiful in your actions, but your heart wasn't in it...perhaps your heart was distant from the Lord or distant from the task at hand. What was going through your mind at that moment? *[Give the group 3 minutes to think individually, then pair up giving each pair 5 more minutes to share with each other, then reconvene as a group and ask a few individuals to share with the group what they learned from their partner].* See Isaiah 29:13 and Jesus quoting it to the Pharisees in Matthew 15:8. *[Perhaps more rhetorical, depending on the maturity of your group]* Are we any better than the

Pharisees? In these moments who do we substitute as the object of our worship in place of God? Or who are we fearing as opposed to fearing God?

Other verses to read and consider: Isaiah 64:6. Psalm 51:10 and 16-17

Sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice (Verses 5-18):

**Question 3)** What does it mean to “have been sanctified” (Verse 10)? Compare verse 10 with verse 14: “he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” What does it mean that the author is using both past tense and present tense? What has God saved you from and what is He saving you from now? [*If you have time consider the same method of reflection as question #2*].

**Question 4)** What is the significance of the author of Hebrews identifying the dichotomy of “priests standing” and “Christ sitting” (Verses 11 and 12)? [*If the discussion reveals that Jesus “finished” the work, you can ask the following*]. What happened when Jesus said “it is finished?” [*The curtain was torn and the copies/shadows of things gave way to the true form or reality that they point to, the image of the invisible God, Jesus himself! The old covenant was fulfilled!*]

**Question 5)** For contemplation, has the Holy Spirit taken from you a sense of duty for God and replaced it with a desire for godliness?

Last, Ted gave us a few exhortations (which do you struggle with most?):

- a) Our offerings are completely insufficient - we can only repent and believe on the Lord Jesus!
- b) Be free! Stop trying to earn what's already been paid for; and
- c) Stop making people pay for your forgiveness